

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NEW DE 04298 181333Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----043861 181353Z /20
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 298
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 4298

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR
SUBJECT: USG PROPOSAL FOR A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN SOUTH
LEBANON

REF: STATE 069250

1. DCM SAW FOREIGN SECRETARY JAGAT MEHTA AFTERNOON MARCH 18 AND REQUESTED GOI SUPPORT FOR UN PEACEKEEPING ROLE FOR SOUTH LEBANON, LEAVING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY A NON-PAPER CONTAINING POINTS MADE IN REFTEL.
2. MEHTA FIRST REITERATED GOI POSITION AS RELAYED BY FOREIGN MINISTER TO NEW SYRIAN AMBASSADOR HERE ON MARCH 16: NAMELY, THAT MASSIVE ISRAELI ACTION IN SOUTH LEBANON WOULD ONLY HARDEN AND EMBITTER FEELINGS FURTHER AND IMPEDE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE; AND ACTION COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED ON PLEA IT WAS INTENDED TO SAFEGUARD ISRAELI SECURITY.
3. HE EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT A PEACEKEEPING FORCE COULD BE A SHORT RANGE OPERATION, BUT HIS MAIN INTEREST CONCERNED LEBANON'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PEACEKEEPING PROPOSAL. MEHTA OPINED THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME HOPE FOR PROPOSAL IF LEBANON, AND SYRIA, COULD DEVELOP SOME CONSENSUS IN ITS FAVOR AMONG OTHER

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ARAB STATES. MEHTA CONVEYED THE FIRM IMPRESSION THAT INDIA WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO DIVERGE FROM WHAT IT TOOK TO BE THE MAJORITY ARAB VIEWPOINT ON THE PEACEKEEPING ISSUE.
GOHEEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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